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GDR WAGE INCREASES FOR SKILLED WORKERS

[Comment: The information in this report, taken from the 1 February 1954 issue of the periodical *Arbeit und Sozialversorgung*, published in Berlin by the GDR Ministry of Labor, concerns wage increases for skilled workers in wage categories V through VIII.]

On 17 December 1953, the GDR Council of Ministers passed a resolution increasing the wages of skilled workers in wage categories V through VIII in certain branches of industry. In line with this resolution, the Ministry of Labor issued a directive on 30 December 1953, stating that new wage rates for wage categories V to VIII in area classifications S, A to D, and I to IV were to go into effect 1 January 1954 (see table, below).

This wage increase covers skilled workers in 73 industrial branches. When the new wage rates were formulated, one of the factors considered was the wage increase for workers in categories I to IV, which had been granted on 1 August 1953. It was necessary to create enough difference between categories IV and V to give semiskilled workers an incentive to qualify for skilled-labor jobs. Furthermore, there had to be sufficient difference between the steps in categories V to VIII to compensate for the progressively increasing requirements for skill.

It was also necessary to differentiate among industrial branches, in accordance with their importance to the national economy. This meant that the light industry and the food industry had to be placed in their proper economic position, in conformity with the New Course and with the requirements for the increased production of consumer goods.

The following industrial branches received no wage increases: very heavy machine building (which received a wage increase on 28 June 1952), HO (Trade Organization) restaurants, Mitropa (Central European Sleeping Car and Dining Car Company), the cigarette industry, inland fishing, the motion-picture industry, radio, people-owned farms, forestry, and the peat industry. The last three industrial branches had received a wage increase in August 1953. For the remainder of these industries, the present wage rates, in relation to rates in other industrial branches did not warrant an increase.

New Hourly Wage Rates
(In Deutsche marks)

| Industrial Branch | Area Classification | Wage Rates by Category | | | |
|--|---------------------|------------------------|------|------|------|
| | | V | VI | VII | VIII |
| Power plants [presumably excluding water power, see below] | I | 1.37 | 1.60 | 1.90 | 2.27 |
| | II | 1.30 | 1.52 | 1.81 | 2.16 |
| | III | 1.23 | 1.44 | 1.71 | 2.04 |
| Heavy machine building, agricultural machinery, vehicles, chemical apparatus, RAW (rail-road repair yards) | I | 1.36 | 1.53 | 1.76 | 2.01 |
| | II | 1.29 | 1.45 | 1.67 | 1.91 |
| | III | 1.22 | 1.38 | 1.58 | 1.81 |
| | IV | 1.81 | 1.33 | 1.53 | 1.75 |
| Gas plants and power distribution | I | 1.36 | 1.53 | 1.76 | 2.01 |
| | II | 1.29 | 1.45 | 1.67 | 1.91 |
| | III | 1.22 | 1.38 | 1.58 | 1.81 |

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| <u>Industrial Branch</u> | <u>Area Classification</u> | <u>Wage Rates by Category</u> | | | |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------|------|------|
| | | V | VI | VII | VIII |
| Precision mechanics, optics, tool making, vehicle building (other than above) | I | 1.31 | 1.50 | 1.70 | 1.94 |
| | II | 1.24 | 1.43 | 1.62 | 1.84 |
| | III | 1.18 | 1.35 | 1.53 | 1.75 |
| Telecommunications | S | 1.36 | 1.56 | 1.77 | 2.02 |
| | A | 1.31 | 1.50 | 1.70 | 1.94 |
| | B | 1.24 | 1.43 | 1.62 | 1.84 |
| | C | 1.18 | 1.35 | 1.53 | 1.75 |
| | D | 1.14 | 1.31 | 1.48 | 1.69 |
| Metal industry, including ship repair yards, vehicle repair shops, MTS repair shops, special MTS shops | I | 1.30 | 1.44 | 1.62 | 1.86 |
| | II | 1.24 | 1.37 | 1.54 | 1.77 |
| | III | 1.17 | 1.30 | 1.46 | 1.67 |
| Vehicle-repair shops of the Post Office | S | 1.35 | 1.50 | 1.68 | 1.93 |
| | A | 1.30 | 1.44 | 1.62 | 1.86 |
| | B | 1.24 | 1.37 | 1.54 | 1.77 |
| | C | 1.17 | 1.30 | 1.46 | 1.67 |
| | D | 1.13 | 1.25 | 1.41 | 1.62 |
| Workshops of local transportation enterprises | S | 1.35 | 1.50 | 1.68 | 1.93 |
| | A | 1.30 | 1.44 | 1.62 | 1.86 |
| | B | 1.24 | 1.37 | 1.54 | 1.77 |
| | C | 1.17 | 1.30 | 1.46 | 1.67 |
| | D | 1.13 | 1.25 | 1.41 | 1.62 |
| Construction industry, stone industry, road construction, sea-dredging enterprises, construction workers in seaports | A | 1.30 | 1.52 | 1.63 | 1.86 |
| | B | 1.24 | 1.44 | 1.55 | 1.77 |
| | C | 1.17 | 1.37 | 1.47 | 1.67 |
| | D | 1.13 | 1.32 | 1.42 | 1.62 |
| State road-maintenance enterprises, waterways offices, ship-salvaging and diving enterprises. | S | 1.32 | 1.48 | 1.63 | 1.81 |
| | A | 1.27 | 1.42 | 1.57 | 1.74 |
| | B | 1.21 | 1.35 | 1.49 | 1.65 |
| | C | 1.14 | 1.28 | 1.41 | 1.57 |
| | D | 1.10 | 1.24 | 1.37 | 1.51 |
| Construction material industry | A | 1.34 | 1.49 | 1.61 | 1.85 |
| | B | 1.27 | 1.42 | 1.53 | 1.76 |
| | C | 1.21 | 1.34 | 1.45 | 1.67 |
| Water power | A | 1.32 | 1.46 | 1.62 | 1.80 |
| | B | 1.25 | 1.39 | 1.54 | 1.71 |
| | C | 1.19 | 1.31 | 1.46 | 1.62 |
| Post Office | S | 1.34 | 1.48 | 1.62 | 1.83 |
| | A | 1.29 | 1.42 | 1.56 | 1.76 |
| | B | 1.23 | 1.35 | 1.48 | 1.67 |
| | C | 1.16 | 1.28 | 1.40 | 1.58 |
| | D | 1.12 | 1.24 | 1.36 | 1.53 |
| MTS | A | 1.25 | 1.40 | 1.56 | 1.76 |
| | B | 1.19 | 1.33 | 1.48 | 1.67 |

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| <u>Industrial Branch</u> | Area Classification | Wage Rates by Category | | | |
|---|--|------------------------|------|------|------|
| | | V | VI | VII | VIII |
| Glass industry | A | 1.34 | 1.53 | 1.62 | 1.73 |
| | B | 1.29 | 1.47 | 1.56 | 1.66 |
| | C | 1.23 | 1.41 | 1.49 | 1.59 |
| Flax retteries, flax, jute, cotton, and worsted yarn-spinning mills | Landclass Sachsen | 1.16 | 1.27 | 1.40 | 1.68 |
| | Landclass Thueringen and Brandenburg | 1.10 | 1.21 | 1.33 | 1.60 |
| | Landclass Sachsen-Anhalt and Mecklenburg | 1.04 | 1.14 | 1.26 | 1.51 |
| Printing and bookbinding | I | 1.12 | 1.25 | 1.47 | 1.57 |
| | II | 1.06 | 1.19 | 1.40 | 1.59 |
| | III | 1.01 | 1.13 | 1.32 | 1.50 |
| Motor transportation, port transshipping enterprises, including DERUTA (German-Soviet Transportation Company) | S | 1.44 | 1.51 | 1.60 | 1.71 |
| | A | 1.38 | 1.45 | 1.54 | 1.64 |
| | B | 1.31 | 1.38 | 1.46 | 1.56 |
| | C | 1.24 | 1.31 | 1.39 | 1.48 |
| | D | 1.20 | 1.26 | 1.34 | 1.43 |
| Wood industry | A | 1.36 | 1.43 | 1.51 | 1.61 |
| | B | 1.29 | 1.36 | 1.43 | 1.53 |
| | C | 1.25 | 1.32 | 1.39 | 1.48 |
| Chemicals, vulcanizing enterprises | A | 1.31 | 1.41 | 1.51 | 1.60 |
| | B | 1.24 | 1.34 | 1.43 | 1.52 |
| | C | 1.18 | 1.27 | 1.36 | 1.44 |
| Fine ceramics | A | 1.31 | 1.41 | 1.51 | 1.60 |
| | B | 1.24 | 1.34 | 1.43 | 1.52 |
| | C | 1.18 | 1.27 | 1.36 | 1.44 |
| Paper and cardboard production | A | 1.31 | 1.41 | 1.51 | 1.60 |
| | B | 1.24 | 1.34 | 1.43 | 1.52 |
| | C | 1.18 | 1.27 | 1.36 | 1.44 |
| Textile industry | Landclass Sachsen | 1.11 | 1.21 | 1.34 | 1.60 |
| | Landclass Thueringen and Brandenburg | 1.05 | 1.15 | 1.27 | 1.52 |
| | Landclass Sachsen-Anhalt and Mecklenburg | 1.00 | 1.09 | 1.21 | 1.44 |
| Inland shipping | | 1.17 | 1.31 | 1.43 | 1.59 |
| Passenger shipping | S | 1.22 | 1.36 | 1.49 | 1.65 |
| | A | 1.17 | 1.31 | 1.43 | 1.59 |
| | B | 1.11 | 1.24 | 1.36 | 1.51 |

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| <u>Industrial Branch</u> | <u>Area Classification</u> | <u>Wage Rates by Category</u> | | | |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------|------|------|
| | | V | VI | VII | VIII |
| Community enterprises, state administrations and installations, health services, veterinary services | S | 1.28 | 1.40 | 1.53 | 1.66 |
| | A | 1.23 | 1.35 | 1.47 | 1.60 |
| | B | 1.17 | 1.28 | 1.40 | 1.52 |
| | C | 1.11 | 1.22 | 1.32 | 1.44 |
| | D | 1.07 | 1.17 | 1.28 | 1.39 |
| Theaters and orchestras | A | 1.30 | 1.40 | 1.47 | 1.60 |
| | B | 1.23 | 1.34 | 1.40 | 1.52 |
| | C | 1.17 | 1.27 | 1.32 | 1.44 |
| Motion-picture theaters | A | 1.16 | 1.27 | 1.40 | 1.57 |
| | B | 1.10 | 1.21 | 1.33 | 1.49 |
| | C | 1.04 | 1.14 | 1.26 | 1.41 |
| Sugar industry | I | 1.14 | 1.23 | 1.36 | 1.52 |
| | II | 1.08 | 1.17 | 1.29 | 1.44 |
| | III | 1.05 | 1.13 | 1.25 | 1.40 |
| Clothing | I | 1.09 | 1.16 | 1.27 | 1.50 |
| | II | 1.04 | 1.10 | 1.21 | 1.43 |
| | III | .98 | 1.04 | 1.14 | 1.35 |
| Leather industry | A | 1.30 | 1.35 | 1.41 | 1.49 |
| | B | 1.24 | 1.28 | 1.34 | 1.43 |
| | C | 1.17 | 1.22 | 1.27 | 1.34 |
| Paper and cardboard processing | I | 1.05 | 1.19 | 1.33 | 1.49 |
| | II | 1.00 | 1.13 | 1.26 | 1.42 |
| | III | .95 | 1.07 | 1.20 | 1.34 |
| Margarine, edible fats industry | I | 1.25 | 1.35 | 1.39 | 1.47 |
| | II | 1.20 | 1.30 | 1.33 | 1.41 |
| | III | 1.15 | 1.24 | 1.28 | 1.35 |
| Oil industry | I | 1.25 | 1.35 | 1.39 | 1.47 |
| | II | 1.20 | 1.30 | 1.33 | 1.41 |
| | III | 1.15 | 1.24 | 1.28 | 1.35 |
| Beverage industry | I | 1.25 | 1.34 | 1.40 | 1.46 |
| | II | 1.20 | 1.30 | 1.34 | 1.40 |
| | III | 1.15 | 1.24 | 1.29 | 1.34 |
| Starch industry | I | 1.14 | 1.23 | 1.30 | 1.38 |
| | II | 1.08 | 1.17 | 1.24 | 1.31 |
| | III | 1.03 | 1.11 | 1.17 | 1.24 |
| Trade, including No. Consumers Cooperatives, DHZ (German Trade Center), VEAB (People-Owned Enterprise for the Purchase and Compulsory Delivery of Agricultural Products), local wholesale dealers, wholesale agencies | S | 1.39 | 1.47 | 1.54 | -- |
| | A | 1.34 | 1.41 | 1.48 | -- |
| | B | 1.27 | 1.34 | 1.41 | -- |
| | C | 1.21 | 1.27 | 1.33 | -- |
| | D | 1.17 | 1.23 | 1.29 | -- |

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| <u>Industrial Branch</u> | <u>Area Classification</u> | <u>Wage Rates by Category</u> | | | |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------|------|------|
| | | V | VI | VII | VIII |
| Local transportation enterprises, street cleaning, garbage and sewage disposal | S | 1.29 | 1.41 | 1.54 | -- |
| | A | 1.24 | 1.36 | 1.48 | -- |
| | B | 1.18 | 1.29 | 1.41 | -- |
| | C | 1.12 | 1.22 | 1.33 | -- |
| | D | 1.08 | 1.18 | 1.29 | -- |
| Landscaping | S | 1.29 | 1.41 | 1.54 | -- |
| | A | 1.24 | 1.36 | 1.48 | -- |
| | B | 1.18 | 1.29 | 1.41 | -- |
| | C | 1.12 | 1.22 | 1.33 | -- |
| | D | 1.08 | 1.18 | 1.29 | -- |
| Fishing industry | I | 1.25 | 1.35 | 1.45 | -- |
| | II | 1.19 | 1.28 | 1.38 | -- |
| Refrigerating plants | | 1.25 | 1.35 | 1.45 | -- |
| Slaughterhouses | S | 1.30 | 1.40 | 1.51 | -- |
| | I | 1.25 | 1.35 | 1.45 | -- |
| | II | 1.19 | 1.28 | 1.38 | -- |
| | III | 1.13 | 1.22 | 1.31 | -- |
| Sausage and meat products industry | I | 1.25 | 1.35 | 1.45 | -- |
| | II | 1.19 | 1.31 | 1.38 | -- |
| Horticulture | | 1.10 | 1.28 | 1.40 | -- |
| Dairies | I | 1.23 | 1.30 | 1.40 | -- |
| | II | 1.17 | 1.24 | 1.33 | -- |
| Fruit and vegetable processing | I | 1.23 | 1.30 | 1.38 | -- |
| | II | 1.21 | 1.27 | 1.35 | -- |
| | III | 1.16 | 1.22 | 1.30 | -- |
| Grain-processing industry | I | 1.23 | 1.32 | 1.38 | -- |
| | II | 1.18 | 1.27 | 1.32 | -- |
| | III | 1.13 | 1.21 | 1.27 | -- |
| Bakeries and bread factories | | 1.23 | 1.32 | 1.38 | -- |
| Fattening of cattle | S | 1.41 | 1.52 | -- | -- |
| | A | 1.36 | 1.46 | -- | -- |
| | B | 1.29 | 1.39 | -- | -- |
| | C | 1.22 | 1.31 | -- | -- |
| | D | 1.18 | 1.27 | -- | -- |
| Confectionery industry | I | 1.25 | 1.38 | -- | -- |
| | II | 1.19 | 1.31 | -- | -- |
| | III | 1.13 | 1.24 | -- | -- |
| VdGB-BHG (Farmers' Mutual Aid Association and Trade Cooperative) | | 1.19 | 1.36 | -- | -- |
| Tobacco industry (chewing tobacco, cigarettes, cigars) and fermenting enterprises | I | 1.23 | 1.35 | -- | -- |
| | II | 1.17 | 1.28 | -- | -- |
| | III | 1.11 | 1.22 | -- | -- |

LIBRARY SUBJECT & AREA CODES - E N D -

- 5 -

| | |
|---------|------|
| 762.203 | 4M/C |
| 762.206 | 4M/C |
| 762.201 | 4M/C |
| 762.207 | 4M/C |
| 762.204 | 4M/C |